



Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Victoria spending higher and unemployment lower

Victorians were spending more during November 2003, as trend retail turnover continued to grow to \$3.7 billion, according to a new report released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Despite being below the national growth level, Victoria's trend retail turnover grew by 2.6% during the three months to November 2003 and by 8.7% from November 2002. The national retail turnover increased by 3.0% over the quarter and by 8.9% over the year.

Victoria's trend unemployment rate for November 2003 stood at 5.2%, lower than the national average. The Victorian rate fell 0.3% during the preceding three months and was 0.5% lower than November 2002.

In trend terms, the number of Victorian dwelling units approved (4,040 units) for November 2003 increased 0.7%. This was higher than the 0.3% increase nationally. The number of Victorian dwelling units approvals were 5.6% higher than the previous year.

During November 2003, Victorian new motor vehicle sales (trend) fell by 0.3% from the previous month. However, new motor vehicle sales were up 8.0% from the sales recorded in November 2002.

The total value of Victorian building approvals, in trend terms, was more than \$1.1 billion in November 2003, down 2.2% from October and 1.9% lower than in November 2002.

Despite the fall in the value of total building approvals, the value of residential building approvals in Victoria for November 2003 increased by 2.3% from the previous month and 13.4% from the same period last year.

Further details, including information on the Victorian labour force, prices, finance and natural resources, are available in **State and Regional Indicators, Victoria, December Quarter 2003** (cat. no. 1367.2).

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